

IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please **AMEND** claims 1-7 and 9-17 as follows.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A component development-management system comprising:

a storage unit storing hardware and firmware related electronized components as a hardware and firmware component knowledge database, each electronized component being electronized information generated during a product design, development, including manufacture, and inspection, data generated to constitute a product, as a component development knowledge data base,

wherein the hardware and firmware electronized components include at least one of a drawing of a hardware constituting the product, a firmware, a program, a specification, and a contract for the product, as the electronized information, and

wherein said hardware and said firmware ~~development data~~ components constituting said product are at a same management level;

a server which manages the component ~~development~~ knowledge data base stored in said storage unit; and

at least one client, connected to said server via a network, which takes out a predetermined component ~~development data~~ from said storage unit via said network.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A component development-management device comprising:

a storage unit storing hardware and firmware related components, each component being electronized information that is generated in processes from design, development, including manufacture and inspection, of a product ~~data generated to constitute a product, as a component development knowledge data base,~~

wherein the hardware and firmware components include at least one of a drawing of a hardware constituting the product, a firmware, a program, a specification, and a contract

constituting the product, as the electronized information, and

wherein said hardware and said firmware ~~development data~~components constituting said product are at ~~the~~a same management level; and

a management unit managing the component ~~development~~ knowledge data base by controlling when a client takes out ~~the~~a hardware and firmware ~~development data~~as component development data from said storage unit via a network.

3. (ONCE AMENDED) The component development management device according to claim 2, wherein said hardware and firmware ~~development data~~components as a plurality of ~~component development data~~electronized information generated from the design, development, manufacture and inspection of the product constitute a hierarchical structure and said storage unit stores meta-information expressing the hierarchical structure and said client takes out a desired component ~~development data~~ from said plurality of ~~component development data~~components constituting the hierarchical structure based on the meta information.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The component management device according to claim 2, wherein the meta-information comprises taking-out limiting information related to the permission/non-permission of taking-out for each component ~~development data~~, and wherein said client takes out the applicable component ~~development data~~ based on the taking-out limiting information only when said client gets the permission.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The component management device according to claim 2, wherein said component ~~development data~~ comprises patch information for automatically performing a patch processing to a firmware, and wherein said client performs the patch processing to the applicable firmware based on the patch information.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The component management device according to claim 2, wherein said client retrieves a desired component ~~development data~~ based on the meta-information.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The component management device according to claim 2, wherein said management unit sends a notice of revision to said client via said network when a component ~~development data~~ already stored in said storage unit is revised and sends a notice of new registration to said client via said network when a new component

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~~development data~~ is registered in said storage unit, and wherein said client takes out said component ~~development data~~ at an arbitrary timing after said client receives the notice of revision or the notice of new registration.

8. (ORIGINAL) The component management device according to claim 2, wherein said management unit conducts communications related to the development consignment of said product with a development maker side client placed in an external development maker and connected thereto via said network.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The~~A component management device ~~according to claim 2~~comprising:

a storage unit storing hardware and firmware development, including manufacture and inspection, data generated to constitute a product, as a component development knowledge database, wherein said hardware and said firmware development data constituting said product are at a same management level; and

a management unit managing the component development knowledge database by controlling when a client takes out the hardware and firmware development data as component development data from said storage unit via a network, wherein said management unit ~~conducts~~and conducting communications for getting thea permission of quotation of a catalog of parts constituting said product based upon the hardware and firmware development data with an author side client placed in the author side of the catalog and registersregistering the catalog as a data base in said storage unit when it gets the permission.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium for recording a component ~~development~~ management program for making a computer execute:

storing hardware and firmware related electronized components as a hardware and firmware component knowledge database, each electronized component being electronized information generated during a product design, development, including manufacture and inspection, data generated to constitute a product, as a component development knowledge data base,

wherein the hardware and firmware components include at least one of a drawing of a hardware constituting the product, a firmware, a program, a specification, and a contract for the product, as the electronized information, and

wherein said hardware and said firmware ~~development data~~components

constituting said product are at a same management level; and

managing the component ~~development~~ knowledge data base by controlling when a client takes out the hardware and firmware development data as component development data from said storage unit via a network.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A component ~~development~~ knowledge system, comprising:

a programmed computer processor generating, storing and managing meta information by treating at same management level varyingly managed component development data generated to constitute a product and related electronized product components that are electronized information generated in processes from design, development, manufacture and inspection, of the product and include at least one of a drawing of a hardware constituting the product, a firmware, a program, a specification, and a contract constituting the product.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The component ~~development~~ management system of claim 1, wherein the component ~~development~~ knowledge database is Extensible Markup Language (XML) data.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The component ~~development~~ management system of claim 1, wherein the hardware and firmware ~~development data~~ electronized components are stored according to a numbering system common to both the hardware and the firmware ~~development data~~ electronized components and added to each hardware and firmware ~~development data~~ electronized component.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The component ~~development~~ management system of claim 13, wherein patch information of each firmware ~~development data~~ electronized component is included as a subclass in the numbering system.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The component ~~development~~ management system of claim 12, wherein the XML data comprises destination information of the hardware and firmware ~~development data~~ electronized components.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The component ~~development~~ management system of claim 12, wherein the XML data comprises new and revised design notice information of the

hardware and firmware development data electronized components.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The component development-management system of claim 11, wherein the meta information is stored and managed according to Extensible Markup Language (XML).
